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* " THE ALLEY CAT " *
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" THE ALLEY CAT "

CAST

ROSE PICKET LEAD
AUNT JENNY CHARACTER
MARY TEMPLE HEAVY

WARREN KEN T LEAD
JACK NEWTON HEAVY
DICK HARVEY H EAVY
TOBY TARBOX COMEDY

ACT ONE

Office of the Kent Iron Works in Pittsburg, Pa. one afternoon in May.

ACT TWO

M Same set. One month later.

ACT THREE

S Same set. One day later.

~~PROPS~~

Phone on desk R.
Desk
Books and papers
Pens and ink on desks
Bomb
Black jack
Pocket book
Barrell
Telephone bell
Money
Three pairs of pants for Toby

" THE ALLEY CAT "

ACT ONE

(MARY & JACK ENTER D FLAT AS SOON AS CURTAIN IS WELL UP. MARY X'S TO WINDOW AND JACK TO THE DESK L. LOOKING AROUND)

JACK

Well, it looks like there was no one at home. This is a fine way to run a business. (LAUGH) I don't think.

MARY

Still Warren makes thousands of dollars every year while you--

JACK

Yes I know while I am only making a few dimes. But if our plan works out all right, this plant will soon belong to me. Then you and I will get married. (LAUGH) and Mr. Warren Kent will go down and out.

MARY

Then what will become of his poor Aunt Jenny?

JACK

(LAUGH) Oh, the insane asylums are still running, and that's where a half wit like her belongs.

MARY

(LOOKS OUT WINDOW) I can't for the life of me see why Warren keeps putting up those little houses all around his beautiful home for.

JACK

So he can live near his working men. (LAUGHS), Think of renting a five room house out for fifteen dollars a month. Why he could get thirty dollars as easy as pie.

MARY

I think he's trying to run his plant like Henry Ford.

JACK

He will be like Henry Ford all right, only he will make the wrong kind of a flivver.

MARY

I wouldn't be too sure about that; something might go wrong.

JACK

Not with old Dick Harvey on the job.

MARY

But what has he to do with your plans?

JACK

He will be the fly in the soup of contentment. He will lead the workmen when they denounce Kent and his policies.

MARY

But I thought he worked for Warren as his foreman?

JACK

He does, but he's on my pay roll too, one by one he is getting Kent's men to come over to me. Soon we will have all the good men working for me, then Mr. Kent will be out of luck.

MARY
I see this Mr. Harvey is just a hound dog being used as a cat's paw.

JACK
(LAUGH) Yes, if you want to put it that way.

MARY
(LOOK OUT OF WINDOW) Well, if here doesn't come old aunt Jenny.

JACK
Good night! What does that old hen want over here, I wonder?

MARY
Well, don't wonder too far, Jack. (LAUGH) We'll soon find out.

JACK
I'll say we will. That old girl is just like a newspaper, knows everything--tells everything.

MARY
You must be nice to her, Jack. You know she thinks that I am going to marry Warren. So she tells me everything that Warren is going to do.

JACK
Don't worry about me. I know how to play the game.

JENNY
(ENTERS D. F) Good-afternoon, folks. (X TO MARY AT WINDOW) I saw you drive up and knowing Warren was down town I thought you would like to come over to the house for a while.

MARY
Indeed we would, Aunt Jenny. (SMILE AT HER)

JENNY
Aunt Jenny! Now don't that sound nice? (TO JACK) And just think Mr. Newston, somet day I'll be her Aunt Jenny sure enough.

JACK
Si I hear. (SMILE AT MARY) Warren is sure a lucky fellow to get a girl like Mary for a wife.

JENNY
(X AND SIT IN CHAIR L? OF DESK R.) He sure is.

TOBY
(OPEN D. F. AND STICK HEAD IN) You aint seen Dick Harvey, have you?

JACK
Why no, did you want him?

TOBY
I'll say I do.

JACK
Come on in, Tob, I want to ask you something.

TOBY
(BASHFUL) I can't.

JENNY
Why not?

TOBY

I aint got no pants.

JACK

Now, Toby, don't liep you've got pants on.

TOBY

Yep but no county seat. (TURNS AROUND AND SHOW THEM SEAT OF PANTS IS GONE SHOWING RED FLANNEL UNDERWEAR) See?

JACK

Good Lord! (LAUGHS) Did an alligatore bite the seat of your pants out?

TOBY

Nope; Dick Harvey did that to keep me from following him.

MARY

Why don't you put on another pair Toby?

TOBY

I aint got none; oor boys don't have but one opair.

MARY

I guess you're right at that, Toby. (TAKES MONEY FROM POCKETBOOK) Here, Toby, is two dollars. (HAND IT TO HIM) now you can buy a new pair.

TOBY

(X TO MARY) Thank you, Miss Mary. '(TAKES MONEY)

JACK

The t red undershirt makes a good tail light, Toby. (LAUGH)

TOBY

Aw cut it out now. It's bad enough for me to have to back up against a fence every time some one goes by, without you making fun of me.

JENNY

Never mind him, Toby. I got a suit over to the house that Warren used to wear twenty years ago. I'll give that to you.

JACK

He'd make a good lightening bug but he's got his head light on the wrong end. (LAUGH)

TOBY

Go on laugh; I hope you bust your bellows.

JENNY

(RISE AND X TO D. F.) Come on, folks, we'd better go over to the house before Toby and Mr. Newton break out in open warfare, come on Mary. (EXIT)

MARY

(X. TO D. F.) Coming, Aunt Mary. (EXIT)

JACK

You're next, Toby.

TOBY

Not me, I'm the tail light.

JACK

JACK
(LAUGH) That's right. (EXIT D. F.)

TOBY
A car is a car, and pants is pants; I'll have a new seat when I come from my aunts. (EXITS D. F.)

KENT
(ENTER R.) Come right on in, Miss.

ROSE
(ENTER R.) Why did you do that?

KENT
Have a chair. (POINT TO CHAIR L. OF DESK R.) Do what?

ROSE
(X TO CHAIR L OF DESKS R.) Liee for me. (SIT) You saw me trying to pick the that hick's pocket, didn't you?

KENT
Yes, I saw you. (SIT BACK OF DESK R.)

ROSE
And you heard what that cop said about me walking the straight and narrow path, didn't you?

KENTY
(SMILES) Yes, I heard that too.

ROSE
Then why didn't you let them arrest me?

KENTN
I don't know, unless it was because you didn't seem to have much of a chance.

ROSE
A dhance? You--you're right, Mister--say, what the devil is your name anyway?

KENT
WarrenKent.

ROSE
Warren Kent? The man who owns this iron works.

KENT
Yes.

ROSE
Good night, and I called you a fool

KENT
(LAUGH) Maybe you're right, Miss--Miss--

ROSE
Picket-Rose Picket.

KENT
Rose, you were named after one of the pretty flowers, I see--

ROSE
Yes, but I never had a chance (CRY) But--but I don't usually cry about it. Nobody's seen me shed a tear in years, not even when they beat me.

KENT
You poor kid.

ROSE
I aint no kid; I'm a girl, so cut the soft stuff.

KENT
Are you hungry?

ROSE
Oh no, I've been getting my three meals regularly at a swell downtown cafe.

KENT
We have a small restaurant right here in my office. (POINT D. L.) Now if you'd like something to eat--

ROSE
Say, I'm no charity case, besides I'm not hungry.

KENT
All right then. Now tell me all about it. (SMILES)

ROSE
I'm no hand at sob stuff, and no good at poor mouse talk I'm just an alley cat, that's all.

KENT
Please tell me all about yourself, Rose.

ROSE
All right. I was left an orphan before I could remember. I grewed up in Hell's Kitchen where they kicked and cuffed me about just like any other alley cat. I ran away from there and one day a probation officer put me in a n orphan aslym.

KENT
That was a shame.

ROSE
You can stand up and holler to your neighbors that it was a shame. When I was fourteen they let me out; first getting me a job where I was to work for my board. The second week I was there a valuable ring disappeared. The blame was laid on yours truly, although I was innocent. They had me sent to the reform school and when I came out I was a finished pick pocket.

KENT
A pick pocket?

ROSE
Yes, it will go hard for me if I'm arrested. I was eighteen last week it'll be up the river, Rose the next time the cops lay me by the heels.

KENT

KENT
Must there be a next time?

ROSE
Say, stranger, once a girl gets a bad name in this town, there isn't a chance of her going straight.

KENT
I don't see why.

ROSE
Because the cops won't let her. If I land a decent job, along comes the police and tells the guy I'm working for that I'm an ex--you know, and the boss fires me. I have to eat, don't I?

KENT
Of course you do. (SMILES)

ROSE
I don't meet a Santa Claus like you every day. Of course there'll be a next time. It all depends on how long I can get by without getting caught, that's all.

KENT
Suppose someone gave you a chance--a real honest to goodness schance?

ROSE
Meaning you?

KENT
Meaning me. (SMILES)

ROSE
I knew there was a string to it somewhere.

KENT
You don't understand, I--I mean to give you a chance. just as if you were my little sister, I'll take you home with me to my aunt. We'll buy you decent clothes; I'll get you a governess who will teach you what you ought to know. I'll adopt you legally. What do you say?

ROSE
Say, those are pretty pipe dreams but they don't mean anything to me.

KENT
(RISES) I mean exactly what I say.

ROSE
I'm asleep and dreaming, or dead and in heaven. (PINCHES HER ARM) Ouch. I'm a still alive.

KENT
Is it a go? (HOLD OUT HAND TO HER)

ROSE
(SHAKE HIS HAND) You tell 'em big boy, I'm your little sister. (LAUGH)

KENT
Good. (X TO D. F.) Now you wait here for about five minutes and I'll be right back. I won't be long little sister. (SMILE AT HER AND EXIT)

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ROSE
Littele sister, don't that sound great? I feel so good over having a big brother, that I could kiss the first man that comes in this room.

TOBY
(ENTERS L.) Hello. (TOBY HAS ON COMEDY SUIT THAT AUNT JENNY GAVE HIM)

ROSE
I think I'll change my mind.

TOBY
If you're going to change anything, I'll step out in the hall.

ROSE
Never mind, I've done it already, and what might your name be?

TOBY
It might be George Washington but it aint. It's Toby Tarbox. (X TO R. OF DESK L.) What's your name?

ROSE
Rose Picket.

TOBY
(LOOKS AROUND) I don't see any rose.

ROSE
I'm Rose Picket.

TOBY
You might be a rose I'm not the guy to pick it. Are you waiting for somebody?

ROSE
Yes--somebody.

TOBY
Then it can't be me, for I'm nobody.

ROSE
I'm waiting for Mr. Warren Kent, do you know him.

TOBY
I'll say I do. Say he's the best fellow that ever lived. He's taking care of me ever since my mother died.

ROSE
What did your mother die of, Toby?

TOBY
Matrimonial dypepsia.

ROSE
Matrimonial dyspepsia?

TOBY
Yep, her husband didn't agree with her.

ROSE
Is your father living yet?

TOBY

Not yet; he died last summer with water on the brain.

ROSE

Water on the brain?

TOBY

Yep a cake of ice hit him on the head. (LAUGH)

ROSE

Say you're about as funny as that suit you have on, Where did you get it from the ark.

TOBY

Nope, Aunt Jenny gave me this suit on account of my pants.

ROSE

What was the matter with your pants.

TOBY

Dick Harvey cut the seat off of them so that I couldn't follow him. But Aunt Jenny gave me another pair of pants; and I got two dollars beside

ROSE

Where did you get the two dollars, Toby?

TOBY

Miss Mary didn't have any pants, so she gave me two dollars.

KENT

(ENTER D. F. X TO R. OF ROSE) Aunt Jenny will be here in one minute.
(SEES TOBY) Toby, have you met Miss Rose yet?

TOBY

Yes, Mr. Kent let me tell you when it comes to pickin' flowers you're a bear-cat.

ROSE

That's your last bubble, Mr. Soap/Box.

TOBY

Not soap Box, my name is Tar Box don't you get that?

ROSE

Yes I get it, but if you make another wise crack, at me I'll knock the tar out of you.

TOBY

Then I'll have to change my name to M. T. box won't I?

ROSE

I'll say you will.

JENNY

(ENTER D. F.) Well, I'm here at last, Warren.

KENT

ROSE

JENNY

KENT

TOBY

Aunt Jenny, I want you to meet my new sister, Rose Picket Fence Kent.
T(O ROSE) Rose this is your aunt Jenny

ROSE

How do you do. (BOW TO JENNY)

JENNY

(TO KENT) You--you are going to adopt this--this person, Warren?

KENT

Yes, you know I've always wanted a little sister, Aunt Jenny. (SMILES)

JENNY

Well, you'll be lucky if she doesn't steal the watch out of your pocket

ROSE

Not if it's got a face like yours I won't.

JENNY

I'll have you to know that my ancestors came over in the Mayflower.

ROSE

Its lucky they did; the immigration laws are much stricter now.

TOBY

Four innings and no runs.

JENNY

You shut up, Toby.

TOBY

Can I keep open on Sunday?

JENNY

(TO KENT) Mary and Mr. Newton are over at home. Shall I tell them that you will be right over?

KENT

Yes, certainly.

JENNY

Very well, see that you are. (EXITS D. F.)

KENT

I'll have Toby take you over to the house and as soon as Mary--Miss Temple and Mr. Newton have gone, my aunt and I will make you feel at home. Miss Temple is my fiancée.

ROSE

Your fiancée?

TOBY

Yes a chicken that will soon be an old hen.

KENT

Toby, you take Miss Rose over to the house and tell the maid to see that she has everything for her comfort.

TOBY

You just bet I will. Come on Miss Rose, I'll take you over to your

ROSE

(X TO D. L.) I thank you for being so kind to me, Mr. Kent.

KENT

That's all right, Rose, tell Aunt Jenny that I will be right over.

ROSE

Yes, Warren. (EXIT)

KENT

Poor little kid, I guess she's had some pretty hard knocks in this old world.

JENNY

(OUTSIDE D. F.) You might as well come in. I suppose Warren is still talking to that girl.

KENT

Aunt Jenny seems all up set about Rose coming to live with us. (LAUGH)

JENNY

(ENTER D. F. X DOWN R. MARRY X DOWN L. O DESK R. NEWTON TO R. OF DESK L.) Well I see you're still here.

KENT

Yes, Aunt Jenny, I'm still here. (LAUGH) Ah, Mary I'm so glad to see you.

MARY

(SIT Thanks, Warren.

KENT

I'm glad to see you also, Mr. Newton

JACK

Right back at you, Kent, what's this I hear about your new protegee?

KENT

Well, in spite of Aunt Jenny's prejudices, the hoi polloi" as she calls them are really not so bad--

JENNY

They're all cattle. They accept Warren's money with one hand and throw brick bats at him with the other. You should see the little ally-cat he's going to adopt. Heaven help us. She's liable to murder us all in our beds.

KENT

Oh it isn't as bad as that aunt Jenny. (LAUGH)

TOBY

(ENTERS L.) Grab the lines, Kent., she's running away.

MARY

Why, Toby, what on earth has happened?

JENNY

Who's running away?

TOBY

TOBY
That--that girl--she beat the devil out of me.

KENT
What did you do to her, Toby?

TOBY
Nothing, Mr. Kent.

JACK
Now Toby, don't lie.

TOBY
She said something about Aunt Jenny--and--and---

JENNY
What did she say, Toby?

TOBY
She said Jenny was a female jackass, and that Aunt Jenny sure lived up to her name, then I called her an alley-cat and she landed on me like a ton of bricks.

JENNY
And where is the young person now?

TOBY
I don't know the last I saw of her she was going down the fire escape.

JENNY
You'd better examine your pockets, Warren, I've no doubt she picked them before she left.

KENT
Nonsense, Aunt Jenny.

MARY
What time is it, Warren?

KENT
Why it's---(FEELS FOR WATCH FINDS IT GONE)

MARY
What's the matter?

KENT
My--my watch is gone.

TOBY
(FEELING IN POCKET) And so's my two dollars, It's a good thing it wasn't my pants.

C U R T A I N

(SAME AS ACT ONE ONE MONTH LATER TOBY IS DISCOVERED SITTING BACK OF DESK R. LOOKING OVER AT FLOWERS ON DESK L.)

TOBY

Floweres for my wild rose. (THINKING) Let's see, the big boss has been gone one month today; and Rose has been working here three week. Gee, wouldn't Mr. Kent have a fit if he knew that the girl who stole his his watch was here working for him. But there's no danger of him finding it tout for a while because he went away for three months trip, and by the time he gets back Rose will have a job somewhere else.

DICK

(ENTERS D. F.) Good morning.

TOBY

Good-morning, don't slam the door as you go out.

DOCK

Well, I'm not going out just yet, Mr. Wise-Guy; (X AND SIT IN CHAIR L. OF DESK) It's a wonder you wouldn't ask an old friend to sit down.

TOBY

Well, you're down aint you?

DICK

Yes, but you didn't ask me to.

TOBY

Please state your business and get out, this is my busy day.

DICK

No, it aint your busy day, your b usy day will be when Kent comes back and tell him that you've been taking out his Stutz roadster every night

TOBY

Mr. Kent gave me that Stutz car when he went away.. Now think up another before that gets cold. (LAUGH)

DICK

Oh he did bhey? And now I suppose you're nigger-rich?

TOBY

Well, that's better than being a skunk for a few cents?

DICK

(RISE) Say you-- (SHAKE FIST AT TOBY)

TOBY

You might be a bully, but you can't bully me. I used to live in the country and I know what real bulls are.

DICK

Say listen, Toby, I don't want to have any trouble with you.

TOBY

Trouble! Say you've caused more trouble around here than a cyclone. Somebody ought to hang a red light on you.

DICK

I don't get your meaning, T
oby.

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TOBY
You don't? Say if you had an ounce of brains you'd learn to hate yourself. and if you had any pride, you wouldn't talk to yourself. Now think that over.

DICK
Say what in the devil are you talking about?

TOBY
Just this, if your so dumb; two months ago you came to the Kent Iron Works a tramp, you worked here one month and in that month you caused all the workmen to become discontented.

DICK
That's a lie.

TOBY
Not today it aint. More and more of Kent's best men have gone over to the Newton Iron Works. Why? Because you told they they could better themselves in doing so.

DICK
How comes you know so much, Mr. Wise-guy?

TOBY
Because I've been on your tracks for the last six weeks, even if you did cut the seat out of my pants three times to keep me from following you.

DICK
Yes, and if you don't keep your nose out of my business I'll cut your heart out and take it home with me.

TOBY
Just where do you live.

DICK
In Hell's Kitchen.

TOBY
Now aint that hot? (LAUGHS)

DICK
About as hot as your hair.

TOBY
Hell's Kitchen. (THINKING) O Then you must be the devil. Say waht do you have to eat in Hell's Kitchen?

DICK
Fried bootleggers, toasted murderers, soft boiled sinners and soup of hypocrites.

TOBY
Soup of hypocrites--now aint that hot? (LAUGH)

JENNY
(ENTERS L.) Good morning, Mr. Harvey.

DICK
Good morning, Miss Kent.

JENNY
(X TO L OF DESK R.) Did Mr. Harvey want to come back to work?

TOBY
No, he couldn't get a job here if he wanted one. We don't want crooks like him around here.

JENNY
But Mr. Harvey is not a crook, Toby; why he was foreman here all the men called him Honest Dick.

TOBY
Maybe so, but I'm always suspicious of a man that's got to be labled as being O. I. I once knew a feller they called Square Dan; he was so crooked he used a corkscrew for a ruler, and I think this honest Dick as you call him ~~that that would steal~~ is so crooked that he would steal a red hot stove from a poor blind woman.

JENNY
(LAUGH) toby, you're always saying the funniest things. How could any body steal a red hot stove.

TOBY
Say that guy could swipe the socks off your feet without touching your shoes.

JENNY
Well, he'd be going some if he did. (LAUGH) Any mail from Warren this morning?

TOBY
Not a line.

JENNY
I wonder why we don't hear from him? It's been two weeks today since I have heard from him.

TOBY
Maybe there's no postoffice where he is now.

JENNY
Well, I must run on over to Miss Temple's for awhile. (X TO D. F.) Call me if any news comes from Warren. (EXIT)

TOBY
(PHONE RINGS PICK UP RECIEVER) It's your nickel, what do you want for it?--no Mr. Kent is in not in no--this is Mr. Tarbox talking--Mr. Kent is in Hell--oo I said Mr. Kent is in the West--I think he went out there to see the sun set. (HANGS UP)

ROSE
(ENTER L. X AND SIT BACK OF DESK L.) What's that about the sun set, Toby?

TOBY
Some nut called up and wanted to know why Mr. Kent went West.

ROSE
What did you tell him?

TOBY
I told him that I thought he went out there to see the sun set. Did you

Did you enjoy your ride last night?

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ROSE
I sure did, but didn't it rain cats and dogs after I left you?

TOBY
I don't know about the cats and dogs, but it sure did rain hop toads and bull frogs.

ROSE
Oh, get out. (LAUGH)

TOBY
That's a fact. One hop toad was riding the cap on the radiator of my car until a hailstone knocked him off.

ROSE
Oh, Bull--Frog.

TOBY
No, a hop toad. (X TO R. OF HER DEKS) Say, Rose, how'd you like to be a cook instead of working here?

ROSE
Why I don't know--I never thought of it--I'm not much of a cook.

TOBY
I need a cook and housekeeper. Would you like the job?

ROSE
Just what do you mean?

TOBY
Listen--I--I *--I--Gee, there's only one I in listne, aint there?

ROSE
Yes.

TOBY
well, listen, I need a cook and housekeeper, an' a sparrin' partner (TAKE RING OUT OF PICKET) I got a diamond ring here that says you're her.

ROSE
(TAKE RING) Is it a real diamond, Toby?

TOBY
Well, if it aint, I'm out thirty five cents.

ROSE
It's Woolworth it, Toby.

TOBY
Will you sign up with me?

ROSE
You mean you want me to marry you?

TOBY
You hit her the first shot.

ROSE

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ROSE
(HAND RING BACK) No, Toby, there's no squirrel up the tree you're barking under. (LAUGH)

TOBY
(X BACK TO DESK R.) But there's a squirrel just the same.

ROSE
Yes, but I couldn't love a nut like you.

TOBY JACK
(MENTER D. F₄³) Good morning, Toby. (X TO L. OF DESK R.) Have you heard from Mr. Kent yet?

TOBY
No, Mr. Newton, not a line. (SIT)

JACK
I wonder what in the world is the matter, Mary--I mean Miss Temple hasn't had a letter from him in two weeks.

TOBY
That makes it fine for you, Mr. Newton.

JACK
Now just what do you mean by that?

TOBY
Oh, I saw you and her out riding night before last; I aint blind even if love is.

JACK
(TO ROSE) And how is my fair one this morning? (SMILE AT HER)

ROSE
Say, who dealt you in?

TOBY
You took a hand in the wrong game, Mr. Newton. (LAUGH)

JACK
I guess I did at that, Toby. (LAUGH) How would you like to go out and have lunch with me, Miss--Miss--

ROSE
Miss is right, you're missing on all six.

JACK
Who are you saving yourself for? Waiting for an arch-angel or just the prince of Wales? Girls like you end in the river.

ROSE
I can swim, honest I wouldn't fool you.

TOBY
Strike one.

JACK
Ever been in love?

ROSE
I know the place well.

Strike two.

JACK

You'd better marry and marry quick--if it's only an office boy like Toby, then you'll learn some sense---

ROSE

Yeah? Then I'll listen to you, you mean?

TOBY

(X TO D. F. OPEN IT) Three strikes, this way out, Mr. Newton.

JACK

(X TO D. F.) I shall tell Mr. Went about this just as soon as I see him.

TOBY

I'll call you up as quick as he gets here, then you can tell him sooner.

JACK

You're a fool. (EXIT)

TOBY

(YELL AFTER HIM) So's your old man. (LAUGH X BACK TO DESK R.)

ROSE

Laugh, you laughing hyena, if you think it's funny. You didn't get very far with your line, did you?

TOBY

Aw, don't get sore, I was just trying to help you get rid of him.

ROSE

Well, whenever I need your help I'll write you.

DICK

(ENTER L. X TO L. OF ROSE DESK) Well, Rose, old kid; I just met Nic Smith and he told me that you was working here. Have you quit the gang down at the Kitchen?

ROSE

Yes, I've quit them for good. I've turned honest now. I've been working for three weeks. (LOOK HIM OVER) Gee, Dick, where did you get all the glad rags?

DICK

Some class to me, eh?

ROSE

I'll say, Well, I still wear the same old rags, so let's hear your assault and battery. How do you get them?

DICK

Dick tells me he saw you and this red headed shiek coming out of the beanery across the street yesterday and you hanging on to him for dear life. (LAUGH)

ROSE

Well, I guess I can hang on to anybody I feel like.

DIC

DICK
Sure you can, but don't blame me if you keep on hanging till one fine day you find yourself with a cheap wedding ring on your finger.

TOBY
I wonder if he calls thirty five cents cheap?

DICK
Think of cooking a can of soup for him and your ~~six~~ six kids in some two by four flat.

TOBY
Six kids? (COUNT ON FINGERS) Two by four is six all right.

DICK
Let me tell you it don't pay to waste your time on one of these here thirty a month guys.

ROSE
You talk like you was in the millionaire classs

DICK
Not exactly, but my fingers don't get cramps when it comes to forking five or ten dollars for showing a girl a good time.

ROSE
You know you sure put a lot of new notions into my head ache box this morning.

DICK
Will you go out to the Jazz Land dance with me tonight?

ROSE
Not in this bunch of rags I won't.

DICK
You just tell me what you want and we'll go down town at noon and buy them waht do you say?

ROSE
Never mind. I aint a golddigger to be asking for things right off.

DICK
Go on and ask. I got more money than sense, and a heart as large as a house and lot, spit it out. You want a new hat, maybe?

ROSE
A new hat would be the octopus's footwear, only I'd look like a real sap wearing one of those million dollar lids with that old horse-blanket I'm wearing for a coat.

TOBY
Horseblanket? And I paid six fifty for it.

ROSE
Now if I had one of them fur coats--the kind that didn't look like it was going to start to "Meww" any minute, then--then I'd be proud to sport around that hat, too, but this way--

DICK
(LAUGH) Well, watch what papa will do for this sugar-doll. A fur coat is all right with me if--well--if you,

KENT

(ENTER D. F.) Good morning, everybody. (SMILES)

ROSE

My Kent!

DICK

Good night. (EXIT L.)

TOBY

(PICK UP PHONE) Give me 812--wht the line is busy?--then give me one that aint busy.

KENT

(SMILE AT THEM X TO D R OF DESK L.) How are you, Rose?

ROSE

Better. Right--after right after--I saw you---I mean after you went away I landed this job. It isn't much of a job, but I get all I want to eat.

KENT

You do look better. (TO TOBY) And how are you getting along with your car, Toby?

TOBY

Just fine. I've run over four dogs and the Lord knows how many chickens, and I've got enough tickets from the traffic cops to paper my room.

KENT

(LAUGH) Better be careful or they'll be taking the car away from you. (TO ROSE) Do you like to work here, Rose?

ROSE

Yes, Mr. Kent, it's the longest I ever held a job without somebody turning me out, but this morning a black cat ran across my path and I knew bad luck was coming my before night.

KENT

Meaning me?

TOBY

You didn't think she meant me, did you?

ROSE

(RISE) Say, you needn't think you're going to play with me like a cat plays with a mouse! Go on, Mr. Kent, have me arrested. I stole your watch I won't deny it, and if you'll search my room you'll find it under the mattress with the picture still inside it--of your fiancée.

KENT

Of my mother, Rose, I've no intention of having you arrested. On the contrary. (TAKE OUT WATCH AND CHAIN) I've been wanting to see you again to give you this. A watch isn't much good without a chain.

ROSE

I suppose you're heaping coal of fire on my head, Mr. Kent; but you

NEEDN't I've hated myself ever since I stole your watch. Nothing you can do or say will make me feel any worse. I don't know what made me do it.

TOBY

You can't blame it on me.

ROSE

You were so good to me, but that--that lady with her high and mighty air, she made me wild, looking at me as if I was some wild animal. I'm nothing but an alley cat, Mr. Kent, all I know is to scratch and bite. I knew you'd hate me too--to turn bad like that. I don't expect you to understand, but it was because I liked you so, Mr. Kent that I stole your watch.

TOBY

Gosh, I wish now she'd stole my pants, then maybe she'd like me too.

KENT

I understand; it's perfectly all right.

ROSE

But it ~~isn't~~ all right. I want you to have me arrested. I--I want to suffer for what I did. I'll feel better for being punished for it.

KENT

I think you've been punished enough, Rose.

ROSE

You--you're so good, Mr. Kent. (HOLD OUT HAND)

KENT

(PATTING HER HAND) I'm not good, Rose, but I'd like to be your friend if you'll let me.

TOBY

Me too.

ROSE

Mr. Kent, it makes me mad enough to die the way folks are always talking about you when you are so good, that man Harvey is always running you down.

TOBY

If I ever catch him on the street when I'm in my car, I'll run HIM down.

KENT

It's just that he doesn't understand. I'm sure that he is honest in his opinion.

ROSE

He is a snake in the grass. You ought to put your heel on him just like you would a poisonous spider, before he has time to bite you.

KENT

Does he try to make love to you, Rose?

ROSE

If he did, I'd bust his nose.

She'd do it too.

ROSE

You tell 'em, I would. Bozo.

MARY

(ENTERS D. F.) Well, when did you get back, Warren? (X TO HIM AND SHAKE HANDS)

KENT

Just about an hour ago? Mary? Did you miss me much?

TOBY

Yes, just like the Stutz missed you.

KENT

Did the Stutz miss me, Toby?

TOBY

I don't think so; it was out every night.

MARY

Do you mean by that that I've been out every night too?

TOBY

I don't know, have you?

MARY

No I haven't. I wouldn't think of going out without Warren.

TOBY

Without wearin' what --your coat?

KENT

You mustn't mind, Toby, Mary, he's always saying something funny.

MARY

Well, I don't see anything funny in what he said. It sounded like he was trying to make you believe that I had been out with some other man while you were out West.

KENT

But I know you haven't so why worry?

MARY

Then you do trust me, don't you, Warren?

KENT

With all my heart, and this afternoon we'll go to a show of some kind.

MARY

Oh I couldn't go this afternoon, Warren, I've been invited over to Mrs. Newton's for the afternoon.

KENT

Then we'll go some other afternoon.

MARY

That will be fine, Warren. Have you a Miss Picket working for you?

KENT

KENT
Why yes, this is Miss Picket here. (POINT TO ROSE) Rose, I want you to meet my fiancée, Miss Mary Temple.

ROSE
I'm pleased to meet you, Miss Temple.

MARY
And I am to meet you, honey. Mrs. Newton wants me to bring you over with me if you will come.

ROSE
I'd like to very much, Miss Temple, but you see I have my work to do here.

MARY
Oh, I'm sure Warren will let you off. (TO KENT) Won't you dear?

KENT
Why of course. Now you two run right along and enjoy yourselves.

MARY
Thank you, Warren dear. (KISS HIM) Come on, Miss Picket, my car is waiting outside. (X TO D. F.)

ROSE
Thank you, Mr. Kent, for letting me off. (X TO D. F.) Will I have time to change my clothes, Miss Temple?

MARY
No, come just as you are; there will only be Mrs. Newton you and I.

ROSE
Then lets go. (BOTH EXIT)

KENT
(X TO DESK L.) Well, Toby, how did things go around here since I've been gone?

TOBY
We aint had enough men to make them go, Mr. Kent.

KENT
What do you mean by that, Toby?

TOBY
Well, in the last two weeks we've lost fifty of our best men.

KENT
Where did they go, do you know?

TOBY
Over to the Newton Iron Works. If I was you I'd take a walk through the works to-day, Mr. Kent, and have a little talk with the men that are left and see what's on their minds.

KENT
I believe I will, Toby. (X TO D. L.) I'll do it right now. (EXIT)

TOBY
There is something strange going on around here and it don't mean Mr. Kent no good.

23

DICK
(ENTER D. F. STEAL UP BEHIND TOBY AND HIT HIM OVER THE HEAD WITH A
BLACK JACK TOBYDROPS HEAD ON DESK) That's one out for awhile. (X TO
D. F. CALLS) The coast is clear, Mr. Newton, come on in. (X TO D. L)

JACK
(ENTER D. F. X R. SEES TOBY) What did you do to Toby, Dick?

DICK
Oh I just gave him a love kiss and he went to sleep.

JACK
But we can't leave him here. What will we do with him?

DICK
(PICK UP TOBY AND CARRY HIM OFF D. R. GONE FEW SECONDS THEN ENTER
WITH TOBY'S PANTS ON ARM) I guess that will hold him for awhile.
(X. L. TO DESK)

JACK
Did you bring the time bomb?

DICK
Sure thing. (TAKE OUT SMALL BLACK BOX THAT LOOKS LIKE A CLOCK) Here's
the baby that will do the work. How much time had we better have?

JACK
Oh about one hour that will give us time to make the other side of
town.

DICK
Then one hour she is, and in one hour she goes. (SET CLOCK PUT IT IN
DESK) Now let's get out of here. (X TO D. F.)

JACK
But hadn't we better take the kid out of there first?

DICK
I should say not, he knows too much. (EXIT)

JACK
Just as you say. (X TO D. F.) You're the doctor. (EXIT)

ROSE
(ENTER THRU WINDOW) I thought there was some kind of a trick going
to be pulled off. (X TO DESK L.) So I just gave Miss Mary the slip
and beat it back here. (OPEN DRAWER AND SEES BOMB) I thought so
One of Harvey's time bombs. Well, I'll soon put it on the bum.

JENNY
(ENTER D. F. (What are you doing here?

ROSE
(PUTS BOMB BACK QUICKLY) Nothing.

JENNY
(X TO CHAIR L. OF DESK R.) Well, it didn't look like it to me.

ROSE
Wipe off your glasses and you can see better.

23

JENNY
I'll do nothing of the kind. (CALLS) Oh, Warren Kent, where are you?

KENT
(OFF L.) In here, Aunt Jenny.

JENNY
Come here this minute. (TO ROSE) You sit down there. (POINT TO CHAIR R. OF DESK L.) Young woman, till Warren gets here.

ROSE
(MX TO CHAIR AND SIT) All right, old woman.

KENT
(ENTERS L.) Well, I'm back home once again, Aunt Jenny.

JENNY
It's a good thing you are before some people steal you blind.

KENT
What do you mean by that, Aunt Jenny.

JENNY
I mean that I caught this girl in the very act of rifling your desk. So much for your alley-cats.

KENTS
(X BACK OF DESK L.) Why, Bozo, I thought you went over to Mrs. Nestors with Miss Temple?

ROSE
I did, but I came back.

JENNY
Yes, Warren, she came back so she could go through your desk

KENT
Is this true, Rose?

ROSE
You can't imagine that old dame lying can you?

KENT
Why did you do it, Rose? Don't you know if you needed anything, girl, you could have had it if you only told me?

ROSE
You couldn't have given me this, Mr. Kent. What's the use of all this sob stuff. Go on, call the police.

KENT
It wasn't the money you were seeking, Rose, it was something for that man, Harvey. He sent you after something. (OPENS DRAWER. TAKES OUT BOMB)

JENNY
My heavens it's some sort of an infernal machine. That girl has planted a bomb in your desk, Warren.

KENT
Someone set a bomb in my desk--yes, but I'm not at all sure it was Rose Aunt Jenny, did you meet anybody as you was coming ~~ha~~ here?

23

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Nobody but the man you sent up here from the works.

KENT

What man?

JENNY

You did send a man up here from the works after a blue print, didn't you?

KENT

Do you mean Mr. Harvey?

JENNY

Why of course.

KENT

So Harvey set an infernal machine for me and you disconnected it, eh, Rose?

ROSE

Well, what if I did? It wasn't for love of you.

KENT

No, I suppose not. You did it to keep Harvey from getting into trouble. Never-the-less, you have saved my life and I am grateful.

ROSE

So's your old man.

KENT

Really I am. (SMILE AT HER)

ROSE

Well, Aunt Jack---I mean Aunt Jenny, bring on your policemen I don't believe you got any. (LAUGH)

JENNY

Of course we won't have you arrested under the circumstances, my dear--you--you were very brave to--to do such a thing.

ROSE

Aw--applesauce. (TO KENT) I'm free to go then?

KENT

Of course if you want to.

ROSE

Well, I want to. (RISE AND X TO D. F.) So long folks. (EXIT)

JENNY

What a strange girl! She would actually have gone to jail rather than tell what she had been doing in your desk. I wonder if I've misjudged her?

KENT

It's possible.

JENNY

There is something wonderfully fine a bout her, something gallant, I don't think Mary would risk her life like that to save you, Warren.

KENT
Rose was not risking her life to save me, Aunt Jenny. It was to save her lover, ~~Ed~~ Dick Harvey.

JENNY
Oh, fudge, you can't make me believe that. (LAUGH)

ROSE
(ENTER D. F. WITH TOBY'S PANTS) Mr/ Kent, have you seen Toby?

KENT
No, I haven't, Rose. Why?

ROSE
Then it's time you was looking for him. (HOLD PANTS UP) I think somebody has stole him right out of his pants.

JENNY
Goodness me! Warren, you'd better phone the police.

TOBY
(STICK HEAD IN D. R.) Aunt Jenny, have you got another pair of pants?

(C U R T A I N)

A C T T H R E E

(SAME SET. THE TIME THENEXT DAY. TOBY DISCOVERED SITTING BACK OF DESK R. KENT BACK OF DESK L.)

KENT

(LOOKING UP) Toby, there is something missing around here today. Do you know what it is?

TOBY

Yes, the flower from your desk. (SMILE)

KENT

Flower? What flower?

TOBY

Rose.

KENT

K saw Rose and Harvey on the street last night. He was hanging on to her arm for dear life.

TOBY

Maybe so, but some day she'll stick him with one of her thorns and then he'll wake up.

KENT

I don't think Rose is really bad, Toby.

TOBY

I know she's not, but all roses have thorns you know.

DICK

(SHOUTING OFF STAGE R. HAVE ALL WHO ARE NOT ON, DO IT), Down with Kent! Down with Kent!

KENT

Why who's doing all that shouting? (RISE & X TO WINDOW & LOOK OUT)

ROSE

(OFF STAGE R.) Bad luck to Kent, the tyrant.

DICK

(OFF STAGE R.) Bad luck to Kent the tyrant.

KENT

Why it's Miss Rose and she is cheering that crowd on. (X BACK TO DESK & SIT) I guess you're right, Toby, about every Rose having a thorn. And Rose has run hers clear through my heart. And I counted so much on her loyalty. Is she like all the rest? Has gratitude been left out of her make-up?

TOBY

I think so, Mr. Kent, all I ever seen in her compact was a powder puff and a lip stick. (HAS FEET STICKING OUT L.)

DICK

(ENTERS D. F. X. R. FALL OVER TOBY'S FEET) Say, why don't you put your feet where they belong?

TOBY

If I did you wouldn't be able to set down for a month.

You dirty rat.

TOBY

Remember he who lives in glass houses shouldn't take a bath in the day time.

DICK

Do you mean by that that I never take a bath?

TOBY

No, but every time you come in here, it smells like the stock yards on a windy day. (LAUGH)

DICK

Let me tell you one thing, Mr. Wise-Guy, I'm a self made man.

TOBY

If you are, you're a darned poor mechanic.

KENT

That will be enough, Toby. Now, Mr. Harvey, did you wish to see me?

DICK

(X. TO R. OF HIS DESK) I sure did. You've made a boast for a year now that you had no one's interests at heart except your workmen. You have even claimed that you 'd turn the works over to the men and let them run it to suit themselves.

KENT

Well, what of it?

DICK

Just this, some of us have listened to your tommyrot long enough. We are ready to call your bluff.

KENT

Meaning?

DICK

That we want a show-down. If you want to benefit your workmen do what you have boasted about. Sign the works over to your employees, then we'll believe in your good faith.

KENT

Return in one hour and you shall have your answer.

DICK

(X TO D. F.) Very well, I shall remove my presents from your office for one hour.

TOBY

Do, take them out and make lemonade out of them.

DICK

Do you mean by that, that I'm a lemon?

TOBY

Yes, one of the three for a nickle kind.

DICK
But you can't buy three lemons for a nickle, Mr. Wise Guy. (LAUGH)

TOBY
Oh yes you can, the rotten kind. (LAUGH)

DICK
Remember, every dog has it's day.

TOBY
Yes, and it will soon be dogs days so don't worry.

DICK
In one hour, Mr. Kent. (EXIT)

TOBY
Mr. Kent, please don't sign the works over to the men.

KENT
Why not, Toby?

TOBY
Can't you see if the men get control of the Works, they'll wreck the business in a mad struggle to claim their share. Suppose some man like Harvey gets control of it?

KENT
We'll do no supposing. You stand outside that door. (POINT TO D. R.) and let no one in for an hour.

TOBY
Yes, sir. (RISE & EXIT D. F.)

KENT
That boy is right about that.

TOBY
(OUTSIDE D. F.) You can't go in, Mr. Kent is busy.

ROSE
(ENTER D. F.) I don't care if he is busy. He's going to see me.

TOBY
I'll say he is.

~~KENT~~
What is it, Rose?

ROSE
(MXTD R. OF HIM) Mr. Kent, what's all this bluff about you turning the works over to Dick Harvey and letting him run it for the men?

KENT
I am not turning the workover to Dick Harvey exactly, but I am considering letting the men run it themselves. Mr. Harvey is their representative.

ROSE
But, Mr. Kent, that'd be fierce for everybody. It wouldn't help anyone. The first thing Dick Harvey'd do would be to kick you out, and then the rest of them wouldn't have a show.

KENT

You may be right, Rose, but someone has to give the thing a trial.

ROSE

What does your aunt think about it?

KENT

She is about ready to have a jury sit on my sanity. (SMILE AT HER)

ROSE

And that girl you're going to marry?

KENT

Mary will stand by me off course.

TOBY

(ENTER D. F.) Miss Temple.

KENT

Show her in, Toby.

TOBY

That's just what I was going to do. (OPEN DOOR) Mr. Kent will see you, Miss Temple, although I can't.

MARY

(ENTER D. F.) HAS POCKET BOOK IN HAND)

KENT

(RISE) Why, Mary dear, this is a surprise.

MARY

I beg your pardon, I did not know you were engaged, Warren.

ROSE

(RISE AND X R) He's not engaged, Miss.

MARY

(X TO R. OF DESK L.) I thought he was.

ROSE

Nope, I was just going. (X TO D. F.)

TOBY

(OPEN DOOR) A little air for my wild flower?

ROSE

A little air for yourself, Toby; you're running flat.

TOBY

Gee, that's a blow out. (EXIT D. F.) *

ROSE

(X BACK TO R. OF MARY) Miss Temple, won't you persuade Mr. Kent that nothing but harm can come to him turning the works over to his men?

MARY

I fail to see what it is to you what Mr. Kent decides to do in this matter. My sentiments are entirely opposed to yours. I have come here to tell him I think it his duty to carry out his wonderful plan and deed the works over to his men this very day. (TO KENT) If I may see you alone?

KENT
(TO ROSE) You are going?

ROSE
Yes. (STEALS MARY'S POCKET BOOK AS SHE X'S TO D. F. (I never like to swing on the gate. (EXIT)

MARY
Warrene, I don't like that girl. She 's just what your Aunt Jenny calls an alley cat.

KENT
Don't be too hard on her, Mary; she's just a poor girl that never had a chance like others.

MARY
Maybe so, but I think she's crooked. I think she'd steal you blind if you didn't watch her. Thenvery idea of her not wanting you to turn over the works to your men. I think it is what you should do at once.

KENT
Your attitude is very gratifying Mary. I was agraidd you'd think I had no right to carry out my generous schemes at your expense. But with you to back me up, I have no doubt as to the answer I will give Harvey when he comes back.

MARY
Then you will turn the works over to the men?

KENT
Yes, for after all (X TO HER) Poverty can't be bad if we share it together, cna it.

MARY
No, Warren, not if we share it.

KENT
Then let us seal it with a kiss. (KISS HER)

TOBY
(ENTER D. F.) Busy? (SEES THEM) I see you are. (EXIT)

KENT
(X BACK OF DESK L.) Come on in, Toby.

TOBY
(ENTER AGAIN) Is it all over?

MARY
No just on my lips. (LAUGH)

TOBY
What was that, a rainbow kiss?

KENT
A rainbow kiss? What kind of a kiss thatM

TOBY
The kind that floows a storm.

KENT

What was it you wanted, Toby?

TOBY

Aunt Jenny wants Miss Temple to come over to the house for awhile.

MARY

Very well then, I'll go right over, (X TO D. F.) I'll see you later, Warren.

TOBY

(X TO DESK R.) Mr. Kent, do you know what happened twenty one years ago today?

KENT

I do not, Toby, what was it?

TOBY

My mother handed my old man the biggest joke of his life.

KENT

What was it, Toby?

TOBY

Me.

KENT

(LAUGH) Just to think it takes twenty one years for a mother to make a man out of her son.

TOBY

Yep and it only takes twenty one minutes for a girl to make a boob out of him.

KENT

Toby, do you think Dick Harvey is crooked?

TOBY

Say he's so crooked he thinks every clothes line in town is a standing invitation for him to help himself.

ROSE

(ENTER D. F. PUSHING EDICK AHEAD OF HER) Mr. Kent, this man has got a confession to make. (PUSH HIM TO R. OF KENT)

DICK

I won't make it.

ROSE

(X R. AND PICK UP PHONE) Oh yes you will.

DICK

All right, you little hell cat, I'll tell.

ROSE

(PUTS DOWN PHONE) All right then, go to it.

KENT

Toby, you go outside that door and let no one in. (POINT TO D. F.)

TOBY

(X TO D. F.) Yes sir. (EXIT)

KENT

Now, Mr. Harvey, what have you to tell me?

DICK

Well to begin with, I've been in Mr. Newton's epay right along. He and a half dozen other of Newton's men have stired up all the trouble at the works. The plan was that as soon as you signed over the works to themen to destroy it; then Newton's foundry would reap the benefit.

KENT

Why you double dyed traitor. (RISE) Out of my sight. If you are in this city after sun down I'll have you arrested for the low-down skunk you are.

ROSE

Pretty hard on the skunk Mr Kent. (LAUGH)

DICK

I'll go. (X TO D. F.) But I'll get even with somebody for this before I leave town. (EXITS)

TOBY

I wonder if he means me?

KENT

If he comes back--I--I'll be sure to kill him.

ROSE

He won't come back. I told him I'd lodge a warrent for his arrest before night, if he did. He won't run any risk of the law getting him again.

KENT

Again?

ROSE

He's an escaped con, he's got a ten year term to serve yet out in Iowa.

KENT

How did you know that?

ROSE

There's certain signs you recognize. You know it's a short road that has no crooks. (LAUGH)

KENT

When did you first suspect him?

ROSE

I suspected him the first time I ever saw him. Then he got so hot after you, I thought the information might come in handy so I wormed it out of him.

KENT

Was that why you got so chummy with Harvey?

ROSE

Sure, I could have let him suspect. If he'd once guessed that I was trying to frame him he'd have killed me.

KENT

You took a terrible risk. (X TO HER) And was it for me you disconnect the bomb R

ose?

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ose?

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MARY

(ENTER D. F. X DOWN BETWEEN THEM) Warren, Warren, that--that girl stole my pocketbook while I was here before.

KENT

Nonsense, Mary, Rose wouldn't steal your purse.

MARY

But she did, I tell you.

JENNY

(ENTER D. F. X DOWN R.) Did you catch the thief, Mary?

KENT

I'm sorry but there's some misunderstanding here, folks, there is no thief.

MARY

But I say there is. That girl stole my pocketbook.

ROSE

You're right, Miss, I took it. (TAKE POCKET BOOK OUT OF WAIST) Here it is. (HOLDS IT OUT)

MARY

(SNATCH IT FROM ROSE) See, I told you she stole it.

ROSE

Everything's there, Miss--I--I didn't take nothing. I--I hope you won't have me arrested?

MARY

Why not? I believe in making examples of people like you. If more of you suffered for your crimes, there'd be less crimes. Warren, call the police.

KENT

Don't be absurd, Mary, I shall do nothing of the kind.

MARY

You would take a stand in this girl's favor against me, Warren? This girl who stole your watch and is a recognized thief?

JENNY

You'd--you'd take her part against your promised wife?

KENT

Rose never had half a chance, Mary. Had she had a hundredth part of your opportunities or mine, there's no telling what she would have done with them. Life has been terrible hard on her. I can't sanction any thing that would make it still harder for her.

JENNY ROSE

MARY KENT

MARY

You've got to choose here and now, Warren, between this--this person and me. Either you have her arrested at once, or our engagement is at an end. Do you understand?

Then I suppose this is the end, Mary, I'm sorry.

JENNY

Why, Warren, think what you are saying.

KENT

I know what I'm saying, Aunt Jenny, every word.

ROSE

Mr. Kent, I couldn't bear to stand in the way of your happiness, go on have me arrested, I--I'm used to it.

KENT

Never! (X TO L. OF ROSE) You--you loyal little soul. Happiness that I'd accept at the cost of your freedom would be a sorry sort.

ROSE

(LOOK UP AT HIM) Please call the police.

KENT

No, Rose, we'll stick together. you and I. (TAKE HER HANDS)

ROSE

You and I. (SMILE AT HIM)

KENT

If Mary can't accept my friends, then she'll be better off without them AND ME.

MARY

Oh of course, Warren, I know you are right, I--I am sorry I lost my temper, I'm willing to accept your friends. Wasn't I willing to let you turn your entire fortune over to them? Please forgive me, Warren, dear. (HOLD OUT HANDS TO HIM)

KENT

(DROP ROSE'S HANDS AND TAKE MARY'S) With all my heart.

JACK

(ENTERS L.) I am just in time for the love feast eh?

JENNY

Yes, Mr. Newton.

JACK

As usual, lady Mary you're looking out for the main chance for yourself. Though you'd make it all up with Kent, did you, when my plans fell thru.

MARY

Why, I don't know what you are talking about.

JACK

Oh don't you eh? Well, this is one time I put a stop to you're plying both ends, Kent, Mary was in on our plot to ruin you. It was her part to get you to sign the works over to Harvey, and when you were ruined, she was going to marry me.

MARY

That's a lie.

JACK
No it isn't and you know it. You can't double-cross me and get by with it.

MARY
Don't believe him, Warren. He isn't telling the truth.

KENT
But I do believe him, you never cared a snap of your fingers about me. So go. (POINT TO D. F.) I hope I never see your faces again.

JACK
He means both of us, Mary, my car is waiting.

MARY
And so is mine, so we'll both ride home alone. (EXITS D. F.)

JACK
I never ride alone..(TO ROSE) Will you do me the honor?

ROSE
Yes--with a good punch on the nose.

JACK
No, thanks, I need my nose. (LAUGH)

KENT
Yes, but don't poke it in my business any more or I'll break it off.

JACK
Well, I'd better be going. (EXIT L.)

KENT
(X BACK OF DESK L.) This is the end of everything. (SIT)

JENNY
No it isn't, Warren, the sun will shine again, I know it will.

ROSE
(X TO HIM) I'm sorry, Mr. Kent, I know your heart is broken.

JENNY
Broken, fiddle sticks it isn't even bent.

ROSE
I--I hoped you would never have to learn the truth about her because you loved her so.

JENNY
Did you know about her?

ROSE
I suspected but I didn't know for sure until I read the letter in her pocketbook--that was why I stole her purse. I recognized the handwriting on the letter as Harvey's.

JENNY
But when she was about to have you arrested, why didn't you tell, Warren?

ROSE
Because I knew he loved her. I didn't want to hurt him.

JENNY
Warren, don't you see the sunshine?

KENT
Yes, Aunt Jenny, I--I'm beginning to think I was only infatuated with a beautiful face. In fact, I--I know now I never knew what real love was until lately. Rose, don't you realize what I am trying to tell you? (RISE) It's you I love, dear.

ROSE
Oh, Mr. Kent, you can't mean me?

JENNY
Well, it sure aint me, honey.

KENT
Yes, I love you, Rose, and I want you to be my wife.

ROSE
Your wife? An alley cat like me?

JENNY
Don't worry, Honey, he came from a family of alley cats. He was born in Shin-bone alley.

ROSE
ShinOBone alley? Why that's only three blocks from where I live.

JENNY
Yes, I know where Hell's Kitchen iws

KENT
Let's you and I get married tonight, what do you say?

ROSE
All right, I'll be the bride.

KENT
And I'll be the bridegroom.

JENNY
And I'll be the bridesmaid.

ROSE
But who will be the best man?

KENT
I have it. Toby will be the best man. (CALLS) Oh, Toby.

TOBY
(OFF STAGE BY D. F.) What is it, Mr. Kent?

KENT
Come in here a minute.

TOBY
What do you want me for ?

KENT
We want you to be the best man at our wedding.

JENNY

Warren, don't you see the sunshine?

KENT

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TOBY

(ENTER D. F. IN A BARRELL) I can't. Dick Harvey stole my pants.

F I N A L E